

Surviving Spouses Liaison Update

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From Your Lead:

Thank you all for stepping up to the plate for your chapter as the Surviving Spouses Liaison. As your lead liaison, I will provide you with insightful information for your surviving spouses as well as your chapter.

Did You Know? Chapters with a designated Surviving Spouse Liaison earns 10 points toward their Level of Excellence (LOE) award application.

Where to Start?

- If your chapter does not have a liaison, identify a volunteer, does not have to be a survivor. Must be a member!
- Identify all surviving spouses and connect them with your group
- Let the group decide how they would like to meet face to face or zoom or phone conference?
- What activities are they interested in within the community or within MOAA?

I will send out quarterly newsletters to you all starting in January. Please disseminate the information to your surviving spouses as you see fit. Also, please send me pictures of any of your activities!

Please feel free to contact me if you need assistance. I am here for you. Honored to be your lead ! *Vivianne*

viwersel@yahoo.com (252) 646-2678 cell

Important Dates:

November 10: Marine Corps Birthday



If you have Marine Corps surviving spouses in your chapter, reach out and wish them a "Happy Birthday".

This is a very touching gesture that typically ceases when the Marine spouse is no longer living. Make their day!

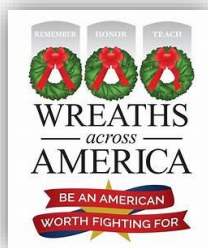
November 11: Veterans Day

Remember to include them on any Veteran's Day activities!



December 18: Wreaths Across America

Get your surviving spouses and or your chapter involved with Wreaths Across America at your local VA or public cemetery. Many non-VA cemeteries also have veterans' sections. More info at wreathsbacrossamerica.org. If you need assistance please contact Vivianne.



Why Surviving Spouses Should Join National MOAA?

There are numerous advantages why surviving spouses should join MOAA. Their mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families. As a MOAA member, surviving spouses have opportunities to connect with kindred surviving spouses in addition to receiving information that may be new to them regarding updates on benefits and programs. Understandably, when one becomes a surviving spouse, there is a certain knowledge gap to navigate. Surviving Spouses of MOAA exists solely to close that gap. It's also important to note that many survivors may not be aware that they are eligible to join MOAA even if their military spouses were not MOAA members.

Depending on one's membership level, spouses will have a consistent line of communication as well as support regarding their eligibility for various MOAA benefits, e.g. discounts, advocacy, scholarships, and membership to their virtual chapter. Communication options include telephone, emails, literature, social media, and webinars.

A great example of the support this organization provides is the MOAA's Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter and the Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group which unites military survivors from different war eras. Through these provided avenues, a surviving MOAA spouse has ample opportunity to relate to like members with similar backgrounds. Local chapters can also provide a spouse with a tangible sense of community and connection.

Membership

MOAA is available to active duty, former, retired, National Guard, and Reserve commission and warrant officers of the uniformed services, including their surviving spouses. For the surviving spouse, there are different levels of membership options. Basic (free), Premium (\$48/year) and Life (varies depending on age). Each level offers varying degrees of benefits and rewards.

Depending on level of membership a surviving is eligible to receive:

Legislative News Updates & Advocacy Effort

MOAA Newsletters

Chapter, Council Membership, & Involvement

Exclusive Discounts on Products & Travel

Access to Member Books & Guides

Financial Education & Consumer Advice

Scholarships, Interest-free Loans, & Grants

Expert Advice on Military Pay & Benefits

MOAA's team of highly trained professionals can help survivor receive the benefits earned through one-on-one counseling

Career Transition Resources

Subscription to Military Officer Magazine & Exclusive Publications

Fee Waived at Army & Navy Club of Washington, DC



Did you know?



If spouse dies and was not a MOAA member, can their survivor join? **Yes** (deceased spouse must meet MOAA membership qualifications).

*If spouse was a life member of MOAA what happens to their membership? **Option to transfer to surviving spouse.***

Some NC Surviving Spouses Are Eligible For Reduction In Their Property Tax

North Carolina Military Surviving Spouse State Benefit

Property Tax Benefit – EASY AS 1-2-3!

Military surviving spouses who receive Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the VA are eligible for up to a \$45,000 deduction in the assessed value of their home for property tax purposes.

\$45,000 is the maximum allowed exclusion for property tax relief N.C.G.A 105.277.1C.

Example: If your home value is assessed at \$300,000, you pay taxes according to the assessment. This benefit would subtract \$45,000, from your predetermined property value assessment. If you meet the criteria your yearly property tax assessment is now calculated at the value of \$255,000.

1. Complete Sections 1 and 2 of the NCDVA-9 Form

File [NCDVA-9](#) application with the VA or Veteran Service Office in January or February to allow for the certification process as it can be a timely event

2. Mail or Fax Certification to:

State Service Office
NCDMVA - NCDVA9
251 North Main Street, Room 190
Winston-Salem, NC 27155
Fax: (336) 631-5028



3. Once certified by the Veterans Benefit Administration the form will be returned to your primary residence. You will then submit the NCDVA-9 to your local County Property Assessment tax office.

- Upon approval will receive document from the County Property Assessor explaining your property tax adjustment benefit
- Only have to file once, not annually
- Must be your principle residence
- Must submit documents to your county tax office by June 1st of the current tax year
- Honorably discharged North Carolina veterans who are 100% permanently and totally disabled by the VA are also eligible

Questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel, NC MOAA Surviving Spouses Liaison Lead (252) 646-2678. <https://www.milvets.nc.gov/services/veterans-property-tax-relief>